



The Buckeye Patriot

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Sons of the American Revolution

Quarterly Newsletter

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From The President's Desk

Compatriots and Companions,

"Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above."

Though I am not a musician by training, nor by talent, I most certainly enjoy music that raises the spirit of everyone within the majestic realm of a song with an uplifting and hopeful tune! Such is the song "God Bless America" written by Irving Berlin in 1918 while he served in the U. S. Army and later popularized by Kate Smith during her radio show on November 11th, 1938, the eve of the first official Armistice Day celebration marking the anniversary of the end of World War I. This signature song of Kate Smith's offered a kind of collective prayer for the unease Americans felt during the time leading up to World War II. Music with a heavenly, patriotic message, I believe, can bring a sense of peace and a tranquil, calming freedom to relieve the current stress surrounding our everyday lives.

Regretfully, the last two in-person meetings that had been scheduled for November 21st, 2020 and February 15th, 2021 had to be canceled due to Governor DeWine's Covid-19 protocols, and then conducted via Zoom virtual meeting, which has resulted in a backlog of New Member recognitions that have always been conducted at in-person meetings. New Members affected by this untimely turn of events are being canvased for their choice of an alternative presentation format.

I'd like to recognize several acknowledgements that I received recently thanking the Chapter for assisting in the Wreaths Across America event at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, North Kingsville on Saturday, December 19th, 2020; and, providing a monetary gift toward the purchase of a Colonial Halberd piece for the NSSAR museum collection, from the Bob Howe Memorial Donation Fund.

Compatriot Brian Johnson donated a collection of books written about John Hanson by Nick Pahys, Jr. Thank you, Brian! Your gift to the Chapter will be put to good use.

The Chapter has received the following recognitions: the USS Stark Memorial Award, the Distinguished Chapter Award, and the Admiral William R. Furlong Award for Flag Certificate Presentations. I'd like to thank every compatriot who helped the Chapter earn these awards. The Chapter has a new Americanism Chairperson; Compatriot Gage Georgeff, and I'd like to express my gratitude to Dan Matheke for his service as our Chapter's Americanism Chairperson. So, my fellow compatriots, all I ask is this: "May God always continue to bless America - land of the free and home of the brave."

Keep a song in your heart,

Patriotically yours,

*Jim Pildner, President
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution*



Welcome New SAR Members!

Gregg Jerome Gorzelle
Evan Cecil Howe
Seamus John Howe
Sean Jerome Howe

Michael John Miller
Benjamin Kenneth Harold Rhoades
Travis Ray Roby

Benedict Arnold: "The Blackest Treason"

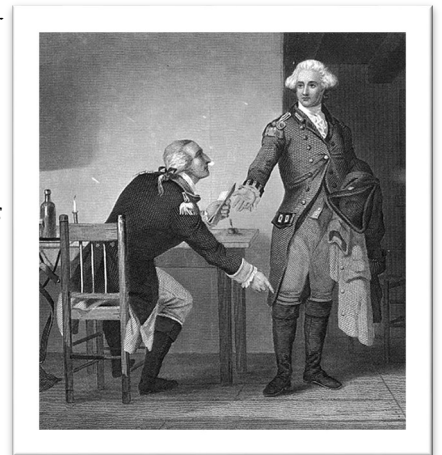
Betrayal and Loyalty in the American Revolution, a Smithsonian Associates Evening Program on Zoom, Wednesday, May 5, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. [Tickets \\$20 Member, \\$25 Non-Member](#)

The name Benedict Arnold is virtually a definition of a traitor and was no less so during the American Revolution. Alexander Hamilton spared no sympathy toward the Continental Army general's spying for the British, calling it "the blackest treason" he could imagine.

The most famous turncoat in American history, Arnold was a skilled officer in George Washington's Continental Army who led patriot forces to several important victories over the British, including the capture of Fort Ticonderoga. But while in command at West Point in 1780, Arnold began secretly communicating with British intelligence agents, giving them inside information, not just about the fort and its defenses, but about American strategy for the war.

When a British spy named John André was captured, Arnold's treachery was discovered. A manhunt ensued, but Arnold made it to the safety of a British ship only to return to the field of battle wearing a British uniform. He led brutal attacks on patriot civilian communities in Virginia and Connecticut throughout 1781.

The question of course is why did he do this? Richard Bell associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, reconstructs the life and times of Benedict Arnold, the reasons for this treason, and the larger problems of betrayal and desertion that dogged the Continental Army throughout the war. (smithsonianassociates.org)



Treason of Arnold depicts Benedict Arnold (left) persuading John André to conceal papers in his boot, 1874; engraving by C.F. Blauvelt (Library of Congress)

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Officers

President - [Jim Pildner](#)
1st Vice President - [Richard Dana](#)
2nd Vice President - [Tim Ward](#)
Registrar - [Troy Bailey](#)
Genealogist - [Tim Ward](#)

Secretary - [Scott Wludyga](#)
Treasurer - [Bob Kenyon](#)
Historian - [Scott Wludyga](#)
Chaplain - [William Robinson](#)

Compleat Victory, Saratoga & the American Revolution

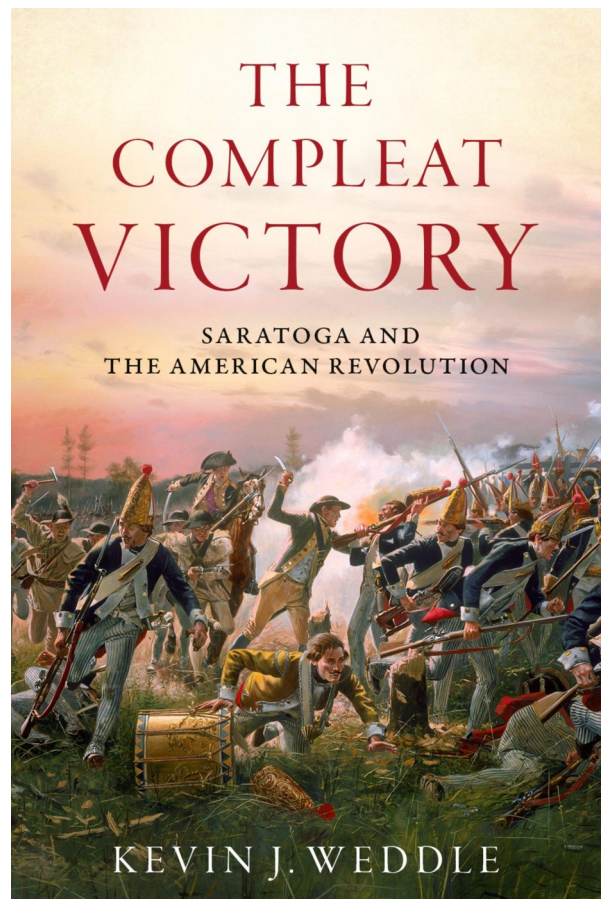
British hopes that the American War for Independence would be brought to a swift conclusion began to wane in the early months of 1777. Despite brilliant victories over Washington and his continentals in the battles of Long Island and White Plains, the rebellious colonies were no closer to being pacified. Success in and around New York City was offset by a failed operation along the Lake Champlain corridor and negated, at least in terms of morale, by Washington's stunning triumphs at Trenton and Princeton. After nearly two years of open warfare, Britain had little to show for its efforts. Nor was there an end in sight—the Americans, it seemed, were determined to fight on.

It was against this backdrop of stalemate and fatigue that, in early 1777, British Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne proposed a daring plan: to end the war, once and for all, with a powerful thrust from Canada, down along the Lake Champlain and Hudson River Corridors, that would permanently sever the head of the rebellion in New England from its dependencies to the south. Frustrated by American perseverance and desperate for a war-winning solution, King George III and his Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord George Germain, quickly embraced Burgoyne's vision.

Yet, as Kevin J. Weddle observes in [The Compleat Victory: Saratoga and the American Revolution \(Oxford University Press, 2021\)](#), the Saratoga Campaign—as it came to be known—was not the strategic panacea those in the British High Command assumed it to be. Loyalist support proved less enthusiastic than anticipated. Burgoyne's decision to employ Native American auxiliaries only strengthened American resolve. The logistical, temporal, and operational vagaries of campaigning in North America led inexorably toward strategic incoherence. And, significantly, both Burgoyne and his superiors vastly underestimated the martial abilities of their American opponents. The Saratoga campaign, Weddle reminds us, was certainly lost by the British, but it was also actively won by the Americans.

Balanced in its analysis and critique of British and American strategic leadership, exhaustively researched, and vividly narrated, The Compleat Victory is a significant contribution to the field of American Revolutionary War studies. Weddle's trenchant analysis goes a long way to advance the emerging new historiography of British leadership in the American War, and offers novel insight into the political, social, and military relationships that shaped the American response to Burgoyne's offensive. In The Compleat Victory, Weddle has undoubtedly produced the definitive account of the Saratoga campaign.

Kevin J. Weddle is Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A West Point graduate, he served in the US Army for 28 years on active duty in command and staff positions in the United States and overseas, including Operations Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom, before retiring as a colonel.
(newbooksnetwork.com)



Mint Unveils New Quarter Dollar with Historic Reverse

April 5th is scheduled as the official release date by the U.S. Mint through the Federal Reserve of a 2021 Washington quarter dollar bearing a new reverse design illustrating Gen. Washington crossing the Delaware River with his troops during the American Revolution. Issuance of the Washington quarter dollar follows from a provision of the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008, Public Law 110-456.



A Washington quarter dollar with a new reverse illustrating Gen. George Washington crossing the Delaware River during the American Revolution will be released in April. (United States Mint)

2021 design: The reverse for the post-parks 2021 rendering portrays Washington at left foreground, facing right, with a sword in his extended right hand pointing the way for troops in a following boat. On Christmas 1776, Washington, along with 2,400 troops and artillery, began his historic crossing of the Delaware River in preparation for a surprise attack on British and Hessian soldiers during the American Revolutionary War at the Battle of Trenton.

The 2021 reverse was designed by U.S. Mint Artistic Infusion Program designer Ben Sowards and sculpted by U.S. Mint Medallist Artist Michael Gaudio, who retired in October. The Sowards reverse is paired, under Public Law 110-456, with sculptor John Flanagan's original portrait of Washington that appeared on the Washington quarter from its introduction in 1932, through 1998.

In 1999, Flanagan's Washington portrait — based on French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon's bust of Washington — was reduced proportionally in size by 15 percent from the original by then U.S. Mint Sculptor-Engraver William Cousins to accommodate inscriptions shifted from the reverse. The reduction, implemented for the 50 State Quarters Program from Cousins' rendition, has appeared on all quarter dollars since. The 2021 designs will also be executed as a 3-inch, 5-ounce .999 fine silver bullion coin.

Second rendering: The 2021 Washington quarter dollar will become the second U.S. Mint quarter dollar release to bear a reverse design illustrating Washington crossing the Delaware. The 1999 New Jersey State quarter dollar reverse by then U.S. Mint Sculptor-Engraver Alfred Maletsky depicts a different view of George Washington at the bow and members of the Continental Army as they cross the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 headed toward Trenton. The 1999 rendering is based on Washington Crossing the Delaware, three 1851 oil-on-canvas paintings by the German-American artist Emanuel Leutze.

The 2021 reverse is tentatively set to be the permanent design for the denomination, but legislation placed before Congress could result in its replacement in 2022 with a new series of 56 circulating commemorative coins, one for each state, the District of Columbia and territory. The coins, if approved, would celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of women in U.S. history. (www.coinworld.com)

Celebrating U.S. Presidents with Virtual Visits

One great way to build context around the life and times of the presidents is to tour their homes. Especially for America's earliest leaders, this can be a great way to prompt discussion, reflection, and understanding of life in earlier times.

[Mount Vernon](#): Experience the first president's life at Mount Vernon, George Washington's Virginia plantation, with this virtual field trip.

[Monticello](#): The home of America's third president, Thomas Jefferson, includes his many inventions, agricultural innovations, history of the plantation itself, and the slave-based economy of early America.

[Lincoln Home National Historic Site](#): With the help of the National Park Service and Google Arts & Culture, you can page through this visual-and-text-based tour of Abraham Lincoln's birthplace.

Libraries are, of course, a great place to start for any knowledge-finding endeavor. Presidential libraries, which commemorate and archive records of various presidents, can be a good place to learn more, find primary documents and useful exhibits, and take a virtual field trip.

[Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum](#): The FDR library has a ready-made virtual tour for you to take no matter where you are.

[Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum](#): Take a video-based look around the Eisenhower library [here](#).

[John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum](#): Sit at the famed Resolute Desk in [this interactive exhibit](#), [explore more](#) digital exhibits, and even an iPad app.

[Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum](#): Walk through exhibits, Nixon's birthplace, and the Nixon library's gardens [here](#).

[Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum](#): You can visit Carter's virtual library with [this Google Street View tour](#).

[Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute](#): Jump into virtual field trips [here](#), and dig into the virtual learning hub [here](#).

[William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum](#): Look through items from the collection in this [virtual tour](#), and check out the digital exhibits on display [here](#).

Other historical sites of interest include virtual tours, exhibits, and digital field trips.

[Ford's Theater](#): Go behind the curtain to learn more about the site of Lincoln's assassination.

[The White House](#): Learn more about the home of the sitting president.

[Mount Rushmore](#): Discover the history of this presidential monument. ([tcea.org](#))



First National Celebration of Washington's Birthday

Mount Vernon is planning its first national celebration of George Washington's birthday this year. The virtual birthday party will feature performances and stories from a variety of actors, musicians and historians will celebrate Washington's 289th birthday on Monday, Feb. 22 beginning at 7 p.m. ET. Guests include best-selling author Rick Atkinson (winner of the 2020 George Washington Prize, for his book, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*); multi-Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, renowned mezzo-soprano opera singer Denyce Graves and Grammy and Latin-Grammy Award-winner Juanes, and more. Proceeds from ticket sales for this event will support the restoration and preservation of Washington's beloved home, Mount Vernon, which is not a government-funded park or agency.

The event takes the place of Alexandrians' long tradition of celebrating Washington's birthday. Traditionally, Mount Vernon's Neighborhood Friends has partnered with Mount Vernon to throw an annual "Birthnight Supper and Ball," which began in 1947. For almost 75 years, event participants have helped raise funds for Washington's home, and increased awareness of Washington. While the pandemic will prevent the traditional black-tie ball from happening in-person, it's created the opportunity for Mount Vernon to host the first nationwide celebration of Washington's birthday.

After shutting down for two months in response to COVID-19, and with reduced attendance as the pandemic continues, right now Mount Vernon needs support more than ever, organizers said Thursday. If you're interested in attending the online party, you can register for the celebration [here](#). Suggested donations begin at \$5.00. (alexandrialivingmagazine.com)



Bennington Battlefield's Newly Donated Cannon

When the Bennington Battlefield opens up next spring, a new replica cannon will be on display. The cannon was donated by Ohio resident Michael Kasler in honor of his ancestor, Johann Kasler, who fought in and survived the Battle of Bennington. Kasler's donation will highlight a seldom-told part of the Revolutionary War. During the fighting between the Americans and the British, so-called Hessian troops, German soldiers, fought with the British. "My family has known about my ancestor being wounded in the Battle of Bennington forever. It seems as kind of a letter was written in 1921, I believe, from one of my great grandmothers talking about the battle and his wounding," Kasler said. "So, it wasn't new information. It's something we've known all the time, but I don't think that any of my ancestors have actually visited the Battlefield." One of those Germans, Kasler's ancestor, was wounded in the battle, and afterward shot a second time by a patriot soldier as he lay wounded helplessly on the ground. According to legend, a compassionate patriot named Peter Howe witnessed the second shooting and took Kasler to a doctor, who saved his life. Kasler recovered and remained in America after the war. "I have donated this in the memory of Johann Kasler, and for all his descendants. I hope it helps bring to light more of the story of how these German soldiers came to be part of the American Revolution and dispel some of the myths from that time," Michael Kasler said. (www.benningtonbanner.com)



Historic Site Assistant David Pitlyk poses with the donated cannon at the Bennington Battlefield in Walloomsac, NY (Caroline Bonnavier Snyder)

The U.S. National Guard's 400-Year History

Founded in 1636 as a citizen force, the U.S. National Guard is a "ready" reserve group of 450,000 men and women voluntarily serving in all 50 states and four U.S. territories. Guard members hold civilian jobs and maintain part-time military training. They are called to service in times of civil unrest, natural disasters, labor strikes, wars, health emergencies and riots.



*A line of Minutemen being fired upon by British troops in the Battle of Lexington, Massachusetts.
VCG Wilson/Corbis/Getty Images*

Uniquely existing as both a state and federal force, as per the U.S. Constitution, Guard units may be called on to preserve public safety, order and peace at home in times of emergency and may also be deployed to serve as essential parts of America's forces abroad.

Guard soldiers typically serve in their home states, living at home and usually holding private-sector jobs, with drills scheduled for one weekend a month and an annual two-week training program. Evolving over nearly 400 years from local Colonial militias to fighting the first American Revolution battles, to serving in two world wars, to securing the U.S. capitol from a rioting mob in 2021, the National Guard serves on the community and country levels, responding to combat and reconstruction missions, domestic emergencies and more and has participated in every major U.S. conflict.

Pre-dating the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, the nation's first organized fighting force, originated on December 13, 1636, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, when three militia regiments were formed to defend against members of the Pequot Tribe and provide security and structure for the early settlements. Men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join, and the original three Massachusetts regiments continue to operate today.

"In the absence of military assistance from Great Britain, the militia system alone guaranteed the success of early English colonization," historian Michael Doubler writes. "As the Indian threat receded, militiamen found themselves more and more engaged against other colonial powers. Battles against the Spanish and French and service alongside British Regulars often revealed the militia's best and worst aspects. By the late 1700s, the militia was a bulwark against unwelcome British intrusion into colonial affairs." During the American Revolution, the units gained the name Minutemen, a nod to their quick response time, as they fought the first battles of the war.

Today, only the U.S. Army boasts more members than the National Guard, and while ten presidents, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, were part of state militias, Harry S. Truman (Missouri Army National Guard) and George W. Bush (Texas Air National Guard) are the only two presidents who served in the branch in modern times.

(www.history.com)

San Francisco to Remove Names of Washington and Lincoln from Schools

The San Francisco school board has voted to remove the names of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Dianne Feinstein and a number of other politicians, conquistadors and historical figures from public schools after officials deemed them unworthy of the honor. After months of debate and national attention, the board voted 6-1 on January 26th in favor of renaming 44 San Francisco schools with new names with no connection to slavery, oppression, racism, genocide, or similar criteria. School board members have repeatedly argued that the renaming is necessary, given the country's reckoning with its Confederate monuments and other symbols of its racist past. The historical figures for whom the 44 schools are named have "significantly diminished the opportunities of those amongst us to the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", according to the resolution approved on January 26th. "It's a message to our families, our students and our community," said Mark Sanchez, a board member. "It's not just symbolic. It's a moral message."

Families in some schools said they had argued for a name change for years. But critics have called the renaming process hasty and under-researched, based on the fervor of the moment rather than on fact. In one instance, the committee didn't know whether Roosevelt middle school was named after Theodore or Franklin Delano. "I support some of the schools being renamed, but there are a lot of schools that do not need to be renamed," said one Lowell high school sophomore in public comment. "There is a lot of historical negligence that happened because they do not have a historian on the advisory committee. On the Google sheet of the renaming committee they cite Wikipedia as a source. As a high school student at Lowell, I'm not even allowed to use Wikipedia as a source for my history papers, let alone to spend millions of dollars to rename a school that may not even need to be renamed." Others argued that history needed to judge a person's life as a whole. Lincoln was on the list for his treatment of Native Americans, but "Lincoln is President Obama's favorite president", Lope Yap Jr, the vice-president of the George Washington high school alumni association, said in public comment. "Abolitionist Frederick Douglass praised Lincoln. Several historians have refuted the advisory committee's conclusion regarding Lincoln. Mount Vernon sent a letter extolling Washington and his overall accomplishments, even after pointing out Washington's dark history."

Dianne Feinstein, California's senior senator and San Francisco native, was added to the list because as San Francisco mayor she replaced a vandalized Confederate flag that was part of a longstanding flag display in front of City Hall. The name of Dianne Feinstein elementary school was one that came up multiple times during public comment. London Breed, San Francisco's mayor, said while she understood the significance of school names and the importance to feel pride in a school name, she felt that renaming these schools should not be a priority when students are still not



Abraham Lincoln high school in San Francisco. Photograph: Jeff Chiu/AP

back in classrooms because of the pandemic. "Our families are frustrated about a lack of a plan, and they are especially frustrated with the fact that the discussion of these plans weren't even on the agenda for last night's school board meeting." Some names suggested as replacements in public comment included Barack & Michelle Obama and Richard Bradley, the Black activist who dressed up as a Union soldier to remove the Confederate flag from the San Francisco Civic Center while Feinstein was mayor. (www.theguardian.com)

George Washington Resisted the Siren Call of Absolute Power

Most of us know that George Washington refused a third term as president of the United States. He set a precedent followed by all other presidents except for FDR and it is now enshrined in the Constitution as Amendment XXII. Less known is that he earlier refused an even more exalted offer: that of military dictator. What happened? In early 1783, as the Revolutionary War was for all practical purposes over, the situation in the nascent U.S. resembled the chaos in ancient Rome at the time of Caesar, or in France in the late 1790s. The Continental Congress was weak and unable to raise money to pay debts to civilians for war supplies and the back pay and pensions promised to the officers and soldiers. Officers and leading financiers met and agreed that the only protection for creditors, whether civilians or soldiers, was the strength of the army. In fact, the army was the only well-functioning national organization. If Congress proved unable or unwilling to honor their debts, military force should be used as a temporary expedient—as any military dictatorship invariably has claimed in world history. The big question was whether the army's commander in chief, George Washington could be persuaded to join the emerging insurrection. Nobody less than Alexander Hamilton took it upon him to persuade Washington.



George Washington at Newburgh, NY, 1783. Detail of Sketch by Edward Percy Moran c. 1915.

In a letter to Washington, Hamilton argued that Congress is “a body not governed by reason (or) foresight but by circumstances.” He proposed that an army revolt could help to spur Congress to action. However, he was also concerned that such a coup might get out of hand, an outcome could be avoided if Washington would put himself at the helm of this movement, not for his own sake, but for the sake of the country. Washington did not buy Hamilton's arguments. He was keenly aware of the situation. As he said to one general: “The army, as usual, are without pay and a great part of the soldiery without shirts. And though the patience of them is threadbare, the states seem perfectly indifferent to their cries.” Yet, he did not believe a military junta headed by him was the solution. In his response to Hamilton, Washington argued that it would be “impolitic” to involve the army as party in the legislative process, which might only “bring on its concomitants.” But Washington also saw the danger. He realized the atmosphere among his officers was grim, to say the least. If he would not act, the army might move without him. Therefore, he called a meeting of all officers on March 15, 1783 at the headquarters of the Continental Army at Newburgh, New York.

Historian James Flexner called Newburgh “probably the most important single gathering ever held in the United States.” Washington addressed the officers but failed to sway them. Then something happened. To reassure the officers of congressional good faith, he pulled a supportive letter from a congressman, but stumbled over the first few sentences. He seemed confused, staring at the paper helplessly. He then pulled from his pocket a pair of new reading glasses, which came as a surprise to his officers, who had never seen him wearing glasses. He said, “Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have grown not only gray, but almost blind in the service of my country.” This heartfelt, simple act did what lofty words failed to achieve – it moved his angry, battle-hardened officers to tears. It reminded them of the many sacrifices their commander in chief had made for his country. The so-called Newburgh conspiracy was over. There would be no military coup.

In December 1783, he went before the Congress and said: “Having finished the work assigned to me, I retire from the great theater of action ... I here offer my Commission and take leave of all the enjoyments of public life.” The words and symbolism were profound. Congress had commissioned him as military leader eight years earlier, and, to Congress, Washington returned his commission. The new republic would be a city on the hill, led by civilians, and the armed forces – like any other group in society -- were subject to civilian control. Washington's authentic leadership was not lost upon others. The highest praise came from an unexpected quarter. According to his erstwhile nemesis, King George III of Great Britain, Washington stood out as “the greatest character in the world.” (historynewsnetwork.org)

*Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
Quarterly Newsletter*

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Libertas et Patria!

*This newsletter is intended for members of the
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 of the Sons of
the American Revolution. It is for educational
purposes only, and is not for sale.*

Important Dates to Remember

NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting

March 6th, 2021 via Zoom
(More Details to Follow)

NSSAR Special Congress

March 13th, 2021
Washington D.C.
(More Details to Follow)

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Patriots' Day Program

Saturday, April 17th, 2021
(More Details to Follow)

132nd OHSSAR Annual Meeting

May 7th - 9th, 2021
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
Fountain Square, 35 W 5th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 421-9100

[131st NSSAR National Congress](#)

July 7th - 15th, 2021
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington
1053 Lake Washington Blvd N
Renton, WA 98056

OHSSAR Board of Management

July 23rd & 24th, 2021
11064 Fort Laurens Road
Bolivar, Ohio 44612

NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting

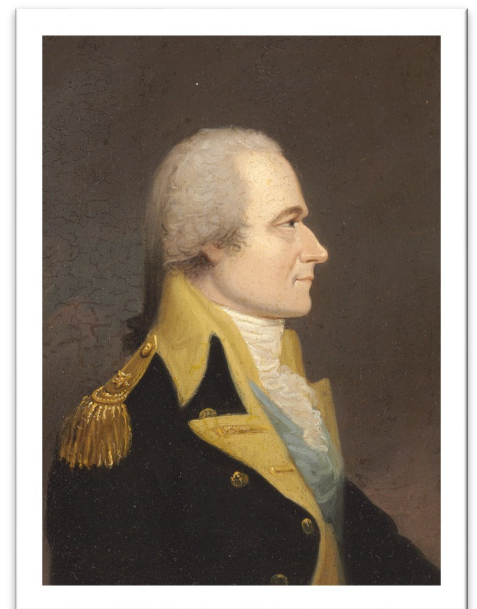
September 23rd, 2021
(More Details to Follow)

Battle Days at Point Pleasant

October 9th, 2021
Point Pleasant, West Virginia 25550

OHSSAR Board of Management

October 16th, 2021
Lafayette Hotel
101 Front Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750



*Portrait of Alexander Hamilton
by William J. Weaver*

* times and dates are tentative and subject to change